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Chairman: Ms. Wensley (Australia)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 166: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*) (A/54/494 and Corr.1 and A/54/622)

1. **Mr. Hays** (United States of America) said that the United States fully supported the timely and successful completion of the establishment of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). UNMIK was critical to future peace and development in Kosovo and to regional security and his Government wished to reiterate its support for the Mission and for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Kosovo.

2. The United States deeply appreciated the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in providing critical advice so that the Organization could construct and finance its missions in the most effective and disciplined manner possible. The Advisory Committee had noted in its report (A/54/622) that UNMIK was unique among United Nations missions in its mandate, size and scope and the extent to which it interacted with other entities, such as the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). His Government recognized that there were difficulties inherent in preparing the initial budget for such a Mission and that it would be prudent to revisit resource issues in the future on the basis of experience in order to ensure that money was spent prudently and that the Mission received the support it needed.

3. The United States called upon the Secretariat and Member States to accelerate the deployment of civilian police in Kosovo, a task whose slow pace had been noted in the Advisory Committee's report and whose ultimate success was critical to the success of the entire Mission. UNMIK was a crucial work in progress and the United States looked forward to giving appropriate consideration to the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

4. **Ms. Aragon** (Philippines) asked why the Advisory Committee had recommended that the post of head of the Office of Gender Affairs should be downgraded from D-2 to P-5.

5. **Mr. Park Hae-yun** (Republic of Korea) said that, while UNMIK should be given the resources needed to effectively discharge its unique mandate, the Mission's proposed staffing and grade structure appeared to have been significantly inflated. His delegation would welcome an explanation of the proposed grade structure and the unnecessary fragmentation of the functions of staff in the Professional category and above in the Office of Political Affairs. The Office of Human Resources Management should be closely involved in reviewing the proposed grade structure.

6. **Mr. Adam** (Israel) said that his delegation supported the establishment of the Mission and the related budget proposals submitted by the Secretary-General. Israel extended its condolences to the families of international staff members who had lost their lives serving the cause of peace in Kosovo.

7. **Mr. Marquardt** (Germany) said that UNMIK was critical to peace and development in Kosovo and to regional security. Every effort should therefore be made to ensure the Mission's success. His delegation noted the observation that the Advisory Committee did not see the rationale for the 6 National Officers proposed for the Civil Administration in Kosovo (A/54/622, para. 40). As the head of the Civil Administration attached great importance to their deployment, it would be helpful if the Secretariat would explain the rationale.

8. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that she would not repeat Cuba's well-know position on the aggression by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against Yugoslavia. The Secretary-General's proposed budget submission was not typical, since it had been prepared to meet the operational needs of a mission with unusual characteristics. Such a large budget proposal, however, should have been more carefully prepared and more details and justifications provided. The Mission's proposed staffing and grade structure, especially the requests for high-level posts, were significantly inflated.

9. The Secretariat should also explain in detail the role of the international agencies in the implementation of the Mission's mandate and how such agencies could be included in technical cooperation programmes and in creating structures in the field. Despite Cuba's own financial difficulties, it had contributed medical personnel to help the people of Kosovo.

10. The proposed inclusion of United Nations Volunteers among the Mission's civilian personnel might constitute a viable solution to the problem of gratis personnel. She noted, however, that UNMIK was

using for its operations at the regional level the five sectors into which the Kosovo Force (KFOR) had earlier divided the territory, instead of the seven districts into which Kosovo had been divided historically. It would be interesting to know why the historical division of the territory had not been followed.

11. The Secretariat should have been more realistic in its estimates of resource requirements. While her delegation agreed that adequate resources should be provided for the Mission, it did not support the Secretary-General's submission.

12. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), responding to requests for clarification of the Advisory Committee's report (A/54/622), said that the Advisory Committee had noted in paragraph 10 of its report that both the Executive Committee and the Joint Planning Group had the potential to be an effective arrangement for the elimination of waste and duplication and the promotion of coordination through, for example, the establishment of joint and common services wherever feasible. The actual effectiveness of such coordination would, however, depend on the behaviour of the parties concerned, especially the four pillars, and on their respect for the decisions and recommendations of the Executive Committee and the Joint Planning Group.

13. He would leave it to the Secretariat to provide the clarification sought by the representative of Germany concerning National Officers. In reply to the question asked by the representative of the Philippines concerning the post level of the head of the Office of Gender Affairs, the Advisory Committee had indeed recommended that gender activities should be handled by an Officer at the P-5 rather than the D-2 level. In paragraph 21 of its report, however, it had stated that its recommendations should not prevent the Secretary-General from proposing, on the basis of actual experience in the Mission, further adjustments in the staffing structure of and resource estimates for UNMIK in future budget submissions. The Advisory Committee's recommendation was therefore not final and the Secretary-General did retain a measure of flexibility in the matter.

14. **Mr. Yeo** (Director, Peacekeeping Financing Division) said that the current submission was not a revised budget for the Mission but a request for an initial commitment. The Advisory Committee had noted the difficulties inherent in preparing a budget for a Mission that was in many ways unique.

15. The functions of the six National Officers would be of a substantive nature; it was not intended for them to provide language support services. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations would respond at a later stage to the question asked concerning the role of international agencies in UNMIK.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.